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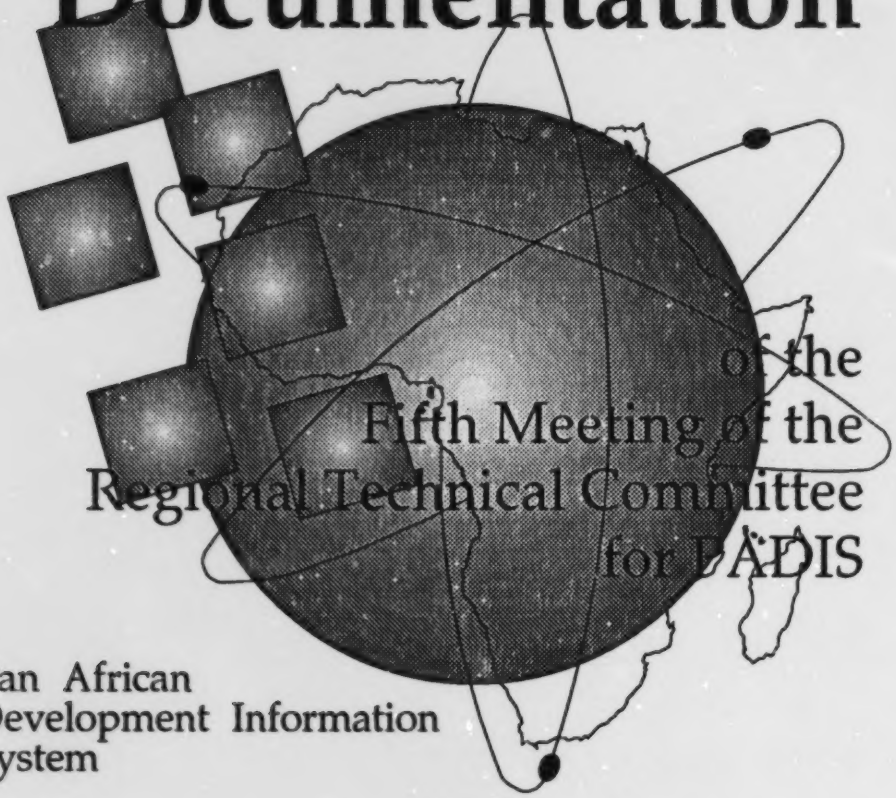
Report and Documentation



of the
Fifth Meeting of the
Regional Technical Committee
for PADIS

Pan African
Development Information
System

PADIS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24 - 25 April 1991

LC/NAIROB

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Fifth Meeting of the
Regional Technical Committee for PADIS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
24-25 April 1991

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening

2. Adoption of agenda
3. Matters arising from ECA meetings
4. PADIS activities since the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee
5. Report of the UNDP Evaluation Mission
6. Financial situation of PADIS
7. PADIS Programme Budget, 1992-1993
8. Adaptation of PADIS to changing needs
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of report

11. Closing

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QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PRECEDING MEETINGS OF ECA

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS (RTC) held in Addis Ababa, 23-25 March 1989 several meetings with a bearing on PADIS activities have been held, including the Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the Twenty fifth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa/Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic Planning and Development. and the Third Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Harmonization and Standardization of Documentation and Information Systems at Regional and Subregional Institution in Africa.

Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers

2. At its Sixth Session held in Addis Ababa, 15-20 January 1990, the participants noted positively the increase in the number of PADIS participating centres from 11 to 34 during the period under review and the substantial services rendered by PADIS to member States despite the limited resources at PADIS disposal. Participants also raised questions regarding regularization of posts within PADIS and recommended that, in view of PADIS' efforts in Africa to create an information system that was assisting African countries in their development processes, UNDP and other donors should consider favourably continued support for PADIS.

Twenty-fifth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa/ Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development

3. The meeting took place in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamhiriya, May 1990 and adopted the resolution "Improving information flows in the Africa Region" (see annex). In the resolution under reference, the Council of Ministers inter alia "requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to explore further ways and means of securing regular budget posts for PADIS, and Strongly Urges UNDP to ensure the continuation PADIS technical assistance activities on behalf of member States by supplementing its allocation to project RAF/86/053 to permit the continuation of professional and administrative staff through the Fifth Cycle".

Third Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Harmonization And Standardization of Documentation and Information Systems at Regional and Sub-regional Institutions in Africa

4. The above meeting took place in Addis Ababa, from 14-16 November 1990. The meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) An information component should be incorporated in the training programmes of all African regional and subregional institution to sensitize decision makers to the

value of information and the use of information facilities. This could lead to better support for the development of information resources in their respective institutions. PADIS should communicate this recommendation to all appropriate sub-regional and regional institutions in the region.

(b) PADIS should prepare a directory of data bases and information systems with information already received and send it to all African regional and sub-regional institutions requesting them to provide or update information on their respective institutions. The completed direction should be published for the next meeting.

(c) The agreement to become an institutional participating centre in the PADIS network should be sent again to institutions who have not yet signed it, again to institutions who have not yet signed it, along with a covering letter and explanatory document.

(d) PADIS should report to the next meeting of the Standing Committee on the results of its studies undertaken on the utilization of information products and services.

(e) To enhance the exchange of information in the region, members should be encouraged to input information into the system, in whatever form was appropriate to their institutions, and to utilize the regional information system according to their needs.

(f) Members should be encouraged to share information regarding applications, interfaces, solutions to technical problems and new developments in information management with the rest of the committee. PADIS should print such information in its *Newsletter*.

Annex

Resolution 679 (XXV)
of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa/
Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
Responsible for Economic Planning and Development

Improving information flows in the African region

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 498 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the Pan African Documentation and Information System in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 600 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 on information systems development in Africa,

Bearing in mind its resolution 658 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 on strengthening information systems in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of PADIS in the delivery of technical assistance to member States in the period since 1988,

Appreciative of efforts made by PADIS in creating an information system to assist African member States in their development.

Noting with concern the precarious situation of the bulk of PADIS's funding for technical assistance which is presently scheduled to end on 31 December 1990,

Recognizing the need for adequate training in the region in current information technology,

Concerned by the small number of up-to-date office automation equipment at ECA to be used in the service of African member States,

1. Commends member States which have already designated national participating centres in the PADIS network and calls upon those that have not done so to designate their participating centres;
2. Reminds participating centres of their role in the network, including the contribution of information;
3. Urges governments hosting subregional centres to accelerate the process of their establishment;
4. Strongly urges UNDP to ensure the continuation of PADIS technical assistance activities on behalf of member States by supplementing its allocation to project RAF/86/053 to permit the continuation of professional and administrative staff through the Fifth cycle;
5. Urges African member States to consider PADIS in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

6. Appeals to bilateral and other multilateral donors to continue and upgrade their support to PADIS;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to explore further ways and means of securing regular budget posts for PADIS;

8. Urges United Nations Headquarters to provide PADIS with the necessary computer equipment to ensure its effective functioning.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON PADIS ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Progress in Programme Implementation

1. During the period under review, April 1989-April 1990, PADIS activities included the delivery of training, advisory services and other forms of technical co-operation for ECA member States, data base development, network building, user services, servicing of legislative and other meetings including expert groups, undertaking of studies and issuance of publications. Details of each of these areas follow.

Training Activities

2. Training activities included the holding of national level training courses for staff of PADIS national participating centres, subregional training courses in computerised documentation techniques, training courses in the management of documentation and information centres and internships.

3. In order to improve the ability of national centres (which grew to 34 during the period), to effectively participate in the PADIS network, PADIS held group training courses in PADIS methodologies for a number of these centres during the period. Training curriculum included utilization of computer programmes for bibliographic data base management as well as other aspects of PADIS tools and methodologies for bibliographic work. The following courses were organized during this period.

(a) Training in PADIS methodologies for participants from information and documentation centres in the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion 20-24 June 1989, Gaborone, Botswana.

(b) Training course for documentalists from English speaking countries covered by CIRDAFRICA, in PADIS methodologies, 23-28 October 1989, Nairobi, Kenya.

(c) Training course for documentalists from French speaking countries covered by CIRDAFRICA, in PADIS methodologies, 6-11 November 1989, Brazaville, Congo.

(d) Training course in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for staff of the Library Schools of Makerere University, University of Zambia, ESI, Rabat, Morocco, University of Dakar, University of Ghana, and one participant from the ECA Niamey-based MULPOC, 26 March-6 April 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(e) Training course in PADIS methodologies, MINISIS and micro-CDS/ISIS software, for staff of the University of Botswana Library, University of Dar-es-Salaam, and the Institute of Agricultural Research, Uganda, 14-25 May 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(f) Training course in PADIS methodologies for participants in a summer subregional workshop (Eastern and Southern Africa), organized by the University of Botswana, 4-8 June 1990, Gaborone, Botswana.

(g) Training course in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for members of the PADIS Standing Committee on Harmonization and Standardization, 19-23 November 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(h) Training course in desktop publishing techniques for participants from Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe 26 November-5 December 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(i) Training in PADIS methodologies and micro-CDS/ISIS for participants from, Ghana, Uganda and Lesotho, 15-26 October 1990, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

4. At the request of PADIS national co-ordinating centres, training in the production of National DEVINDEXES, the utilization of PADIS data bases and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for bibliographic data base management were organised by PADIS. During the period under review, the following training in this category took place.

(a) Training staff in Zambia in the generation and production of DEVINDEX - Zambia, 22 July-6 August 1989, Lusaka, Zambia.

(b) Training staff in Swaziland in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 25-28 July 1989, Mbabane, Swaziland.

(c) Training staff in Sudan in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 26 March-4 April 1990, Khartoum Sudan.

(d) Training staff in Ghana in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software, 17-27 April 1990, Accra, Ghana.

(e) Training staff in Burkina Faso in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software 16-20 July 1990, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

5. PADIS also organised two subregional training workshop for needs of documentation centres, in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software:

(a) for countries covered by the West African MULPOC, 18-22 September 1991, Niamey, Niger.

(b) Training courses, one for English Speaking and another for French Speaking participants, in the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software and co-operative information system for member States of the Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), 14-23 May 1990.

6. The area of management of documentation and information centres is gaining much attention in Africa. PADIS' training for member States in this area included regional seminars, workshops and study tours. Specific activities in this area were:

(a) Study tour to the Soviet Union on the Management of Scientific, Technological and socio-economic information, 15-27 October 1989.

(b) Regional seminar on the management of national and institutional documentation centres and services in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 December 1989.

(c) Regional workshop on "Human Resources Development for the management of information and documentation centres in Africa, Harare, 10-14 December 1990.

7. PADIS' training activities also included the operation of a fellowships programme for staff of national and institutional participating centres. During the period the following fellowships were awarded.

(a) Attachment training at PADIS in PADIS methodologies for the documentalist from the West African Development Information System (WADIS), 8-27 January 1989.

(b) Attachment training at PADIS in PADIS methodologies for a documentalist from IGADD, 12-16 June 1989.

(c) Attachment training course on Documentation and Information Centre management, for one staff member from the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commis-

sion to the Egyptian National Scientific and Technological Information Network (ENSTINET) Cairo, Egypt, 26 September-31 October 1989.

(d) Participation in a micro-CDS/ISIS course, by one staff member from the Ethiopian Commission for Central Planning, 17-29 September 1989, Berlin, Germany.

(e) Participation in a micro-CDS/ISIS course by one staff member from Mauritius, 17-29 September 1989, Berlin, Germany.

Advisory Services

8. During the period under review, at the request of member States and institutional participating centres, PADIS delivered advisory services on a wide range of topics relating to development information management.

National level Advisory Services

(a) To Algeria, on the establishment of a price data base for the National Economic Development Information Centre (CNIDE) and for the installation of the PADIS-STAT data base at the national statistical office, May 1989.

(b) To Zambia, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 5-12 June 1989.

(c) To Rwanda, on the development of statistical computing, June 1989.

(d) To Swaziland, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 16-30 November 1989.

(e) To Kagera Basin Organization (KBO), Kigali, Rwanda, to install computer equipment and provide training on software, 9-31 January 1990.

(f) To Ghana, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 20-29 January 1990, Accra, Ghana.

(g) To Uganda, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 7-11 May 1990.

(h) To Lesotho, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 11-15 June 1990.

(i) To Zimbabwe, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 10-14 September 1990.

(j) To Cameroon, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 26 November-1 December 1990.

(k) To Equatorial Guinea, to assess national needs for development information infrastructure, 14-19 January 1991.

Other Advisory Services

(a) To the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), on the evaluation of information systems in Eastern and Southern Africa, Nairobi 24-28 April 1989.

(b) To the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, Tripoli, 25-30 April 1989, on the development of an African social development data base.

(c) To the Environmental Liaison Centre International, Nairobi, Kenya, on the development of a data base on women and the environment in Africa, 26-29 June 1989.

(d) To the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) workshop, to share with them PADIS experiences in creating an information network in Africa, Lusaka, 27-29 November 1989.

(e) To the Government of Uganda and the German Foundation for International Development, during their seminar on "Development of National Information and Documentation Network for Uganda, Kampala, Uganda, 1-9 March 1990.

(f) To the Institute of Development Economics and Planning (IDEP) to assess institutional needs for development information management capabilities and its potential as a PADIS institutional participating centre, Dakar, 30 April-5 May 1990.

(g) To the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), during their Information Management Curriculum Development Workshop, 21-25 May 1990, Arusha, Tanzania.

(h) To the Government of Kenya and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) during their organised workshop on "the Development of a national information and documentation network, 30 October-9 November 1990, Nairobi, Kenya.

(i) To the Standing Conference of East, Southern and Central African Librarians, on information for women and development, Kampala, Uganda, 21-22 June 1990.

(j) To the International Energy Foundation, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the establishment of an energy data bank, Library and information network, 26 August-1 September 1990.

(k) To the African Regional Centre for Technology, on the utilization of microcomputers and appropriate software for information processing, Rabat, Morocco, 22-25 October 1990.

(l) To the Third Session of the Advisory Committee of the Population Information Network for Africa, Accra, Ghana, 15-18 October 1990.

Data Base Development

9. Data base development expanded on several fronts. PAD-DEV, the PADIS bibliographic data base on economic and social, scientific and technological aspects African development literature to which national participating centres contribute, grew by nearly 12,000 entries. Of these, about 9,600 records were contributed by national centres.

10. The receipt of inputs to PADIS-COMP, the PADIS complementary files series (data bases acquired from United Nations organizations and other international bodies) increased. Several new data bases, including ILCADOC, from the International Livestock Centre for Africa; DUNDIS, the data base of development projects of the United Nations and its agencies from the Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of information Systems

(ACCIS); SESAME, reference data base on agricultural research and rural development, from the Ministry of Research and Technology (France); ERGS, that of the IDRC Energy Research Group; IDRIS, IDRC projects; data base; LILACS, CLAPLAN and DOCPAL - bibliographic databases of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the data base of African Scholarly journals, from the African Association of Science Editors, were acquired bringing PADIS-COMP to more than 200,000. These data bases, together with PAD-DEV, were used to generate the Selective Dissemination of information (SDI) service and for retrospective search services.

11. The data base on African experts grew by approximately 1600 entries during the reporting period. Contents of the data base were used for search services and for the preparation of the updated editions of the Directory of Experts.

12. Three new data bases were opened:

a. data base on on-going research projects in East and Southern Africa countries (RESPRO); and,

b. data base on African development institutions (RESINST).

c. Directory of data bases and information systems in Africa Regional and Subregional Institutions. (PAD-DAB)

Presently, the first two contain about 1500, 165 references respectively. Data collection efforts on PAD-DAB are being slepped up. The data collection exercise for the RESPRO data base was conducted jointly with the Eastern and Southern African Universities Research Project (ESAURP), using national co-ordinators in fifteen countries. Members of the Standing Committee form the base of the RESINST data base.

13. Major developments in respect of the statistical data bank (PADIS-STAT) include: increase in the number of years covered by the data base from 21 to 26 years; possibilities of the transportability of the data bank from the Hewlett Packard computer and its operating system to IBM-compatible micro-computers and utilization of dBase data base management systems; and the preparation of guidelines for data base administrators and end users. Missions for installation and training in use of the data base were also undertaken to several countries of the region, as enumerated above.

14. PADIS continued to work with ACCIS, Geneva on the harmonization and standardization of information within the United Nations system, by attending, as ECA focal point, the Fifth Session of ACCIS, held in Geneva, 18-22 September 1989 and the Working Group on Data Base Access, also held in Geneva, from 5-8 December 1989.

Network building

15. PADIS' network consists of its national, subregional and institutional participating centres. Advances were made during this period in the establishment and strengthening of each of these areas.

16. During the period, the number of national participating centres increased from 25 to 34, an increase of over one-third during the period under review. Those countries which joined the network during the period were; Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Many of these national centres received advisory services from PADIS and started to contribute inputs to PADIS data bases.

17. Regarding the establishment of subregional centres, Zaire signed the host country agreement for the establishment of the Central African Development information System

(CADIS) in February 1990. Equipment was installed and staff trained at the offices of the Niamey Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC), which is to house WADIS; heads of documentation systems from the subregion were trained in computerized documentation techniques; and the documentalist who was engaged to operate WADIS was given training in computerized documentation techniques at PADIS. Joint activities were undertaken with the Arab League Documentation Centre to promote the North African Development Information System (NADIS). In regard to the Eastern and Southern African Development Information System (ESADIS), the Government of Zambia recently agreed to start the implementation of ESADIS as per the earlier agreement signed with the Economic Commission for Africa. Equipment had already been installed in the Lusaka-MULPOC, and the process of recruiting suitable staff for ESADIS is underway. However, the status of the subregional centres has been called into question by the UNDP Evaluation Mission of PADIS, which completed its work in July 1990. The Evaluation Mission felt that developments in information technology have rendered the need for subregional centres as collection and processing nodes redundant. The question of their situations will be brought to the attention of the Subregional Technical Committees for PADIS, which will meet in the first and second quarters of 1991.

18. In order to increase the utilization of the network and increase the delivery speed of requests and responses, PADIS has initiated a project, with IDRC assistance, entitled "Computer Networking in Africa." The project will test many newly-developed forms of information technology which have not been introduced hitherto or only on a limited basis in Africa (these include CD-ROM, optical erasable disks, use of modems, scanners and facsimile transmission) for improved development information exchange. If these tests are successful, efforts would be made to introduce the technologies on a wide scale in an effort to alleviate some of the information availability problems the Africa region faces. Participants in this pilot project have been drawn from PADIS' national focal points, PADIS' institutional participating centres and from PADIS subregional centres.

User services

19. The project continued to deliver services to users in the form of: (a) published indexes to development literature; (b) SDI bulletins; (c) customized question/answer service; and (d) documents/microfiche delivery.

20. Growth was achieved in the number of individual and institutional subscribers to the SDI service, with the number now standing at 173 as opposed to 134 at the beginning of the period.

21. The number of requests for the customized question/answer service increased from 43 in the previous period to 197 in the present period.

22. Requests for information on African development experts, institutions and projects were negligible prior to 1989. However, 105 requests for such information were filled during 1989-1990. Nearly 950 documents, in hardcopy and microfiche format, were delivered to individuals and institutions during the period.

23. National and institutional participating centres also received magnetic tapes and diskettes containing references to development information from PADIS and PADIS COMP bibliographic, referral and statistical data bases.

24. Online services are being developed for worldwide utilization through the PADIS computer networking project. (See para 18 above)

Legislative meetings

25. PADIS serviced the Information Science Committee of the Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held in Addis Ababa (JCPSD) in January 1990 and the Follow-up Meeting of the North Africa Committee of Officials held in Tripoli, 14-15 May 1990. Technical reports were prepared for and considered by these meetings.

26. The Twenty-fourth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa in 1989 passed resolution 658 on strengthening development information systems in Africa. By this resolution, PADIS' name was changed (from Pan African Documentation and Information System) to the Pan African Development Information System. Subsequently, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of Ministers meeting in Tripoli passed resolution 679 (XXV) calling for improving information flows in the African region. Texts of this resolution is contained is annex to document ECA/PADIS/RTC/2.

Expert meeting

27. PADIS organized an Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Data Bank on Women and Development, held in Addis Ababa from 15-19 May 1989.

28. Technical as well as background papers and reports were prepared and presented to the meeting.

Studies

29. In order to keep abreast of developments in information development in the region, PADIS undertook a number of studies during the period. These included:

a. Study of women and development information needs and resources in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt and Senegal;

b. Study on the utilization of microcomputers by documentation and information centres in Africa (January 1990);

c. Study on development information utilization problems and user needs in Francophone countries of Africa (December 1990).

Further studies are planned on the evaluation of PADIS products and services.

Publications

30. During the period, PADIS published eight issues, in English and in French and Arabic, of its quarterly *Newsletter*. It improved its format, utilizing desktop publishing techniques, and its circulation. The *Manual for PADIS Participating Centres* was also published. Four current awareness bulletins of *DEVINDEX-Africa* were published (1989, nos. 2-3, and 1990, nos. 1 and 2). A diskette utilizing computer graphics to explain PADIS operations was produced and distributed to the PADIS network.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: REPORT OF THE 1990 UNDP EVALUATION MISSION AND TRIPARTITE REVIEW ON PROJECT RAF/86/053 (PADIS PHASE III)

1. UNDP mandates the conduct of an in-depth evaluation for all regional projects above a certain size at least once during the project cycle. It undertook such an evaluation of PADIS Phase III between May and July 1990. The purpose of the evaluation was to evaluate of the project performance, with emphasis on design, implementation and achievements as well as to suggest its orientation during the remainder of the Fourth Cycle. The findings were presented to ECA and reviewed at a Tri-Partite Review held in Addis Ababa in July 1991. The findings of the evaluation mission are extracted below while the recommendations are presented in full.

Findings of the Evaluation Mission

General

2. The creation of a development information system and network for Africa, which PADIS is assigned to address, still remains an important and worthy objective meriting the support of the international donor community.

3. The need for and usefulness of the activities under Project RAF/86/053, PADIS III, are recognized and expressed as such by the Member States

4. In working towards meeting the objectives of the project, in implementing the activities directed at the realization of these objectives and in producing the related outputs, UNDP resources have been used in a useful way and in accordance with the conditions as mentioned in the project document.

Design

5. The technical design of the project, at the time of the conception of phase III, is acceptable. Technological development, being as fast as it has been, should have incurred a rethinking of strategies during the lifespan of this phase. The latter also holds true for the change from documentation and information system to development information system as it has been introduced during this phase of the project.

6. Given the resource base of the project the immediate objectives of PADIS are over-ambitious in terms of geographical coverage, span of attention and scope of activities.

Implementation and results

7. Recognizing the importance of bringing together and providing access to as much relevant information as possible, the change from "documentation and information system" to "development information system" has broadened the scope of PADIS activities without additional resources and as such has led to a dilution of efforts.

8. A substantial improvement of the quality control on data input in the databases of PADIS has been noted by the mission (cleaning up of the databank on African experts, check on DEVINDEX worksheets).

9. On the basis of feed-back received in the countries visited, the Mission is of the opinion that there exists a serious mismatch between the main targeted user group (decision makers and planners) and the actual user group (researchers etc.)

10. Decision makers and planners seem largely oriented toward numerical data, most of which are acquired at the national level. Information sought from external sources mainly

pertains to macro-economic, sectoral and project related data at the sub-regional level and to data facilitating comparative inter-country analysis.

11. Confusion as to what development information is or should be is widespread. A clear-cut distinction between numerical data (statistics) and other development information exists in the majority of the member-states visited by this mission, as well as at the level of the executing agency (Statistics and Population Divisions vs PADIS). Furthermore these two types of information are in most cases generated and used in quite distinct sectors and flow through separate administrative circuits (statistics ⇒ planning vs documentation ⇒ research).

12. National Participating Centers which are located in Central Statistical Offices or co-ordinating ministries like those of Planning are more successful in supporting the integrated approach to development information, both in terms of collection - dissemination and of reaching the targeted user-group, than National Participating Centers located elsewhere.

13. Although much effort has been put in making PADIS and PADIS activities, services and products more widely known in the region (*Newsletter* distributed to more than 700 addressees in Africa, pamphlets), name recognition and acquaintance with PADIS and its activities, products and services still leaves much to be desired.

14. Although some actions have been undertaken to gain more insight into the composition of existing and potential user groups and their respective needs, more needs to be done in this field.

15. ECA has undertaken efforts to regularize part of PADIS staff. Up to now, financial constraints in the UN system as a whole, have made these efforts to no avail.

Monitoring

16. The contents and efficiency of the monitoring role of the Regional Technical Committee and its sub-regional counterparts has not become clear to the mission. However, as this body provides the only direct line to the Conference of ECA Ministers and, apart from the participation of project staff, does not incur any additional expenditure against the project account, the mission is not opposed to continuing the activities of this body. More emphasis on co-ordination of activities under other projects in related fields and networks might make its meetings more worthwhile.

Outputs and sustainability

17. Starting from a meager basis, PADIS III has shown remarkable progress in all fields related to its immediate objectives (growth in number of National Participating Centers, increase in number of databanks, increase in contents of databanks, increased use of products and services, training, advisory services and servicing of meetings provided.)

Subregional centers

18. The sub-regional centers covered by RAF/86/053 are not operational. In Lusaka and Niamey the main bottleneck now is constituted by the funding of the components the host governments agreed to finance. In Kinshasa everything is ready to receive the equipment. Although the draft agreement on hosting the center is quite clear on this point there seems to exist some confusion as to the duration of the funding of the agreed upon components by the host government.

19. Developments in information technology have rendered the need for sub-regional centers as collection and processing nodes redundant.

20. Provided adequate resources are made available, the sub-regional centers can play a useful role in bringing PADIS closer to the field and in decentralized efforts in the field of sensitization, training and advisory services. Main functions for the sub-regional centers as perceived in the field would be:

- closer presence of PADIS to National Participating Centers
- partly take over training/advisory work from center
- repackage and or compile development information (macro-economic, sectoral, project related and business) at the sub-regional level
- monitor developments in user needs
- monitor and where possible co-ordinate related activities under other projects, networks or sub-regional organizations

21. The mission noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken in the implementation of project activities in complying to the special considerations as mentioned in the project document. These pertain to Women In Development and to Lusophone countries.

Recommendations

22. In order not to jeopardize the continuity of PADIS activities UNDP should undertake immediate action to make provisions under RAF/86/053 for the budget lines related to personnel for the year 1991. Necessary funding has been tentatively budgeted for US$ 650,000.

23. Given the state of the results of PADIS activities which begin to bear fruit in the Member States, the Mission recommends continued funding for PADIS through the UNDP Fifth cycle.

24. The Mission strongly recommends that an in-depth study into the actual and potential users and their respective needs be undertaken. This study should be completed before April 1991 and serve as input in the formulation of the next phase of PADIS.

25. In order to prevent monitoring problems in the future the Mission recommends the establishment of a Steering Committee. This Committee should have as members; UNDP, ECA, a representative of the member states, the PADIS CTA and either on a permanent or an ad-hoc basis representatives of co-funding agencies and/or related projects, networks and the like. The Committee should meet at least twice a year and one of these meetings should be scheduled to coincide with the Tripartite Review Meeting. Following a suggestion from the field, the meetings should be held in different Member States each time, as a means to further promote PADIS and to stimulate people engaged in PADIS-related activities.

26. The Mission strongly recommends that the required inputs be made available to PADIS in order to enable it to implement the mandate implied in Resolution 658 (XXIV), which places emphasis on development information by changing the name of PADIS from Pan African Documentation and Information System to Pan African Development Information System. This implies a redesign of the project to reflect the new emphasis on development information.

27. In view of the technical and financial implications, the Mission recommends that appropriate avenues be sought to canvass the issue of the sub-regional centers on the agenda

of the respective relevant sub-regional IGOs. Until a reasonable solution as to their future has been found, activities with respect to the sub-regional centers should be suspended.

28. In order to increase its sustainability PADIS should continue its search for financial sources other than UNDP; (external assistance, member states' contributions, income generating activities) Efforts should be intensified to ensure the further regularization of PADIS within ECA before the year 2000.

29. PADIS should put considerably more effort into:

a) the promotion of itself, and its products and services;

b) follow-up on activities in the field.

30. ECA should nominate as soon as possible a director for the division to which the project in its own quality and with its own CTA can be attached.

31. UNDP country offices should be more vigilant in following up on regional projects in general and PADIS in particular and look into possibilities of funding from IPF of complementary activities at the national level

32. Member States should honour the obligations they choose to engage in and strive more vigorously for the implementation of the resolutions passed on their behalf.

Tri-Partite Review

33. The Tri-partite Review Meeting on the project to which the results of the evaluation mission were presented endorsed the report of evaluation mission and strongly recommended that UNDP consider funding the project into the Fifth Cycle.

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FINANCIAL SITUATION OF PADIS

Background

1. In the last year of the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle (1987-1991), PADIS finds itself in a financial crisis. As members of the Regional Technical Committee are aware from previous meetings, all of PADIS' present funding for development information activities on behalf of member States come from extra-budgetary sources. Of these, 82.7 per cent, including funding for 12 of 13 staff members, comes from the United Nations Development Programme regional programme funds. (The balance of PADIS' funding comes from the International Development Research Centre for the project "Computer Networking in Africa.")

2. At the present time PADIS has no funds for the bulk of its staff and many of its activities (i.e. data base development, training, advisory services) for the second half of 1991. This is because at the time of the financing of PADIS Phase III project (RAF/86/053) by UNDP in 1987, during the last stages of the project negotiations, ECA was asked to reduce the amount of the project from $3,500,000 to $3,076,500. In order to effect this change without affecting activities, the allotment for the personnel component in 1991 was dropped, in consultation with UNDP officials. ECA alerted the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS (RTC) to this problem at both its third and its fourth meetings. Following its fourth meeting, RTC sponsored a resolution on "Strengthening development information systems in Africa" which was subsequently passed as resolution 658 by the XXIV meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, calling upon "UNDP to continue funding through 1991 the personnel component of PADIS Phase III at its 1987-1990 level."

3. At the time of the funding of the project, UNDP officials told ECA that pending the successful outcome of an evaluation mission, to be held in 1990, additional necessary funding to carry the project through to its conclusion could be forthcoming.

4. The In-depth Evaluation Mission (see ECA/PADIS/RTC/4, ECA/PADIS/RTC/BD1 and ECA/PADIS/RTC/BD2) concluded its report in July 1990. Among its findings were the following:

> *In order not to jeopardize the continuity of PADIS activities UNDP should undertake immediate action to make provisions under RAF/86/053 for the budget lines related to personnel for the year 1991.*

5. Despite these resolutions and recommendations, since July 1990 UNDP has stated its inability to consider any rephasing which involved increased allocations, because of its financial crisis within the Regional Bureau for Africa. Instead it proposed that savings from 1990 be rephased, along with the 1991 activities allocation, to cover staff for the first six months of 1991. ECA accepted this on the grounds that all possible efforts would be made to find funds for PADIS staff through the end of the fourth cycle (1991).

6. Some of the possible sources of funding for the second half of 1991 are:

(a) UNDP itself;

(b) the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD); and

(c) the contingency fund to the regular budget of the United Nations.

UNDP intends to present the results of the In-Depth Evaluation to its Action Committee; it is possible that an allotment could be made to provide the necessary funding, following the deliberations of this Committee. The contingency fund alternative arises from a 1989 telex from the United Nations Programme Planning Board which stated that "efforts should be made both by ECA and Headquarters to seek continued extrabudgetary finances [on behalf of PADIS for 1991], but that in case these did not materialize, resources

from regular budget could be sought.") In PADIS' 1990 end-of-the-year review, the ECA Executive Secretary appointed an-house Committee to work with PADIS to find a solution to the present financial crisis. That Committee met in January to look into ways and means to deal with the situation

Funds needed for second half of 1991

7. Under personnel costs, PADIS needs funds for three experts, administrative support staff (6 1/3 posts) and one consultant for the second half of 1991. Costs for these posts are estimated at $190,000. PADIS also needs a relatively small amount of money for activities (travel, US$27,000 and training $30,000). Without these funds, it will have to terminate its training, advisory services and data base development activities. By the beginning of the second month of 1991, PADIS had already received more requests for its services than it was able to programme with available funds.

8. In addition, $100,000 is needed for the post of the newly-recruited Director of PADIS, who has been unable to assume his post because of lack of funds. Since the Tri-Partitite Review of PADIS Phase III (RAF/86/053)of July 1990, UNDP has refused to pay for this post, on the grounds that it is not a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) post on a project, but rather an ECA infrastructure post for which ECA should assume the costs. **Thus, the total amount needed for the rest of 1991 is $347,000.** It should be noted that the Evaluation Mission also recommended that ECA fund this post:

> *The successive CTAs of the [PADIS] projects acted in fact as Directors of the programme and report directly to the Executive Secretary of the ECA. . . . In the opinion of the Mission, the ECA should establish officially the Information Systems Division and nominate its Director as soon as possible. . . .ECA should nominate as soon as possible a director for the [information systems] division to which the project in its own quality and with its own CTA can be attached.*

Beyond 1991

9. PADIS feels that on the basis of its experiences of the last ten years it can play a critical role in the development of information systems in the region. In the first place, it intends to apply to UNDP for continuation of its regional funding, for both North Africa and for Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, because of the limitations on the amount of funding available from this source and the large scope which PADIS would like to cover, PADIS would like to present an enlarged plan for 1992-1997 to a diversified range of donors. For this purpose, ECA has agreed to organize a donor's conference on behalf of PADIS for the second half of 1991.

10. ECA has also agreed to submit a request for one regular budget post for PADIS' development information systems activities on behalf of member States. Details regarding this post are given in ECA/PADIS/RTC/6.

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PADIS Work Programme 1992-1993

1. PADIS' activities at ECA are part of both the regular ECA Programme Budget as well as of its operational activities funded by extra-budgetary sources. PADIS is in the midst of drafting its requests for the next biennium and beyond for extra-budgetary funding that it will submit to donors (for further information on this, see "Financial situation of PADIS," ECA/PADIS/RTC/6 and "Adaptation of PADIS to changing needs" ECA/PADIS/RTC/8). However, since 1986-1987 PADIS' activities have also formed part of the ECA Programme Budget. The proposals which PADIS has submitted, which are being presented to the Twenty-sixth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers and subsequently to the Forty-fifth session of the General Assembly for approval are detailed below.

2. Given the structure of the newly-approved Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997, all of ECA's activities fall under one programme: Regional Co-operation in Africa. The number of subprogrammes has also been greatly reduced. In the 1992-1993 ECA programme budget PADIS is responsible for the implementation of activities under two different subprogrammes: it implements activities related to development information systems under Subprogramme 1: Development issues and policies in the ECA Region, as well as those for electronic support services under the Administration and Common Services subprogramme.

Development issues and policies in Africa

3. Funding for development information systems has been proposed from both extra-budgetary and regular budget sources. As members of the RTC are aware, since its establishment the bulk of PADIS' funds have come from extra-budgetary sources. Since the 1990-1991 work programme submission, however, ECA has attempted to secure some regular budget funding for PADIS' development information systems' activities on behalf of member States. Although two posts were proposed for 1990-1991 (that of the Director of PADIS and the chief of computerized documentation section), they were not approved. (However, in 1989 the Programme Planning Board noted that "efforts should be made both by ECA and Headquarters to seek continued extrabudgetary finances but that in case these did not materialize, resources from regular budget could be sought. The board decided further that this would be mentioned in the proposed programme budget.") Again, in 1991, ECA has proposed some regular budget funding for PADIS under the 1992-1993 programme budget: one P-4 post (for the Chief, Computerized Documentation Section) and $4,000 for official travel. This submission too will need to be approved by the Programme Planning Board before it becomes part of ECA's submission to the General Assembly.

4. The following justification has been presented for the P-4 post:

> Since 1987 resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers [679 (XXV), 658 (XXIV) and 600 (XXII)] have requested regular budget resources for the area of Development Issues and Policies in Africa concerned with development information systems, which have been a part of the ECA programme budget since 1986, but without any regular budget resources accorded. The creation of a P-4 post is proposed to assure the servicing of ECA legislative meetings in this substantive area, the maintenance of development information data bases crucial to member States, and

co-ordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies active in this field. The need for this post responds to the increasing demand for development information and the establishment of subregional and country-oriented databases, particularly those which will be created under General Assembly Resolution 44/211.

5. The proposed travel funds from regular budget will be used for travel to member States to collect data for the development and maintenance of bibliographic and referential data bases.

6. With regard to extra-budgetary sources for operational activities, PADIS has estimated, conservatively, that it expects to have available $1,520,000 available over the biennium 1992-1993 (or $3,800,000 for the period, 1992-1997), as opposed to actual 1990-1992 resources available of $1,382.057, an increase of 10%).

7. The first step in programme planning is to develop the orientation of the sub-programme for the biennium, as per the approved Medium-Term Plan. PADIS has proposed the following orientation for its development information systems programme:

Within the objectives of the subprogrammes for the Medium-Term Plan period, emphasis will be given to:

(a) enhancing the capability of member States to collect, store, retrieve and disseminate information on issues of African development;

(b) development and maintenance of a series of numerical and non-numerical databases for storage and dissemination of develop information to be used by member States;

(c) development and encouragement of acceptance of norms and standards for harmonizing development documentation and information.

8. From this basis, PADIS has programmed as follows:

C: ACTIVITIES

1. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

(c) Depositary services

(i) Negotiation of 10 participating centre agreements for the exchange of development information with national and institutional participating centres in the PADIS network.

(e) External relations

(i) Promotion of norms and standards for the exchange of development information with intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations through the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information at Subregional and Regional Institutions in Africa (annual meeting, fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993);

(ii) Establishment and operation of a development information network of national and institutional participating centres in the Africa region (Intermediate activity, no final output);

(iii) Participation in meetings of the intergovernmental, inter-organization Study Group on the Exchange of Development Information (intermediate activity, no final output.

2. PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

(b) Substantive Services

(i) Substantive servicing of a meeting of the Information Science Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (biennial, second quarter 1992);

(ii) Substantive servicing of a meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS (biennial, second quarter, 1993);

3. PUBLISHED MATERIAL

(a) Recurrent publications

(i) PADIS newsletter on development information in Africa (quarterly, years of completion 1992 and 1993);

(c) Technical material

(i) Bibliographic computerized data base on social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa (intermediate activity, no final output);

(ii) Referential computerized data base on African experts in social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa (intermediate activity, no final output);

5. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(c) Field projects

(i) Field project to enhance development information capability of member States.

6. CO-ORDINATION, HARMONIZATION AND LIAISON

(i) Participation in the United Nations Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of Information Systems (Intermediate activity, no final output).

9. The utilization of the proposed P-4 post workmonths have been allocated as follows (24 workmonths over the biennium).

1 (e)(i) Four workmonths over the biennium will be spent on the co-ordination of documentation and information at subregional and regional institutions in the region and the preparation of documentation for the annual meetings of the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information at Subregional and Regional Institutions in Africa;

1 (e)(iii) One month over the biennium will be spent on the harmonization and co-ordination of development information systems through participation in the work of and attendance at meetings of the intergovernmental, interorganizational Study Group on the Exchange of Development Information;

2 (b)(i) Three workmonths of 1992 will be spent on the preparation of documents, the organization of the meeting and the substantive servicing of the meeting of the Information Science Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

2 (b)(ii) Three workmonths of 1993 will be spent on the preparation of documents, the organization of the meeting and the substantive servicing of the meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS;

3 (c)(i) Three workmonths of each year of the biennium will be spent on the maintenance and development of a bibliographic computerized data base on social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa;

3 (c) (ii) Three workmonths of each year of the biennium will be spent on the development and maintenance of a referential computerized data base on African experts in social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa;

6 (i) One workmonth over the biennium will be spent on the collection and follow-up of data and attendance of meetings of the United Nations Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of Information Systems.

10. Some activities of the programme budget will be delivered entirely with extra-budgetary resources: these are: 1(c)(i) [Negotiation of 10 participating centre agreements for the exchange of development information with national and institutional participating centres in the PADIS network]; 3(a)(i) [PADIS newsletter on development information in Africa (quarterly)], and 5 (c)(i) [Field project to enhance development information capability of member States]. Others will use extra-budgetary resources to supplement the regular programme budget.

Electronic support services

11. As part of PADIS' electronic support services to the ECA secretariat, ECA has proposed the addition of two new regular budget posts (beyond the 5 presently existing), with the following justification:

> The ECA Conference of Ministers has emphasized the importance of technical assistance in information technology through its resolutions 679 (XXV) "Improving information flows in Africa" and 658 (XXIV) "Strengthening development information systems in Africa." At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly through resolution 44/201 acknowledged the office automation needs of the ECA secretariat.
>
> ECA is presently undergoing a rapid transition to automation, which should be fully operational during the 1992-1993 biennium. While the P-5 post of Chief, Information Sections (responsible for Office Automation) provides direction to the subprogramme, the increasing demands necessitate the creation of additional posts to assist the Chief. The secretariat sees a heavy demand for services in the area of training and maintenance on the one hand, and for the development of office applications on the other. Accordingly, it is proposed that one P-3 post be established in the area of training and maintenance of computers and another P-3 post in the area of office applications.

12. The following work programme has been proposed for the use of these resources:

C: ACTIVITIES

8. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

(d) General Services [Electronic support services]

(i) Operation and management of computer facilities;

(ii) Maintenance and development of central computer operating system;

(iii) Scheduling and monitoring maintenance of mini-computer system hardware;

(iv) Planning, supervising and executing maintenance of ECA micro-computers;

(v) Delivery of training courses, in co-operation with ECA training section, in utilization of mini- and micro-computer software, operating systems and applications programmes;

(vi) Maintenance, development and installation of computer applications for administration and substantive divisions of ECA;

(vii) Data entry for administrative applications;

(viii) Management and administrative support for office automation (advising on and co-ordination of acquisition of office automation, preparing equipment specifications and requisitions, co-ordinating delivery, supervising installation and verifying invoices;

(ix) Secretariat support for Technological Innovations Committee;

(x) Management of spare parts inventory for microcomputers and related peripherals;

13. The human resources will be allocated as follows:

Twelve professional level work months are needed over the biennium for 8 (d) (i) operation and management of computer facilities;

Twelve professional level work months are needed over the biennium for 8 (d) (ii) maintenance and development of central computer operation system;

Three professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (iii) scheduling and monitoring maintenance of the mini-computer system hardware;

Twelve professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (iv) planning, supervising and executing maintenance of the ECA micro-computers, secured largely under the office automation programme.

Twenty-two professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (v) delivery of training courses, in co-operation with ECA training section, in utilization of mini- and micro-computer software, operating systems and applications programmes;

Seventy-two professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (vi) maintenance, development and installation of computer applications for administration and substantive divisions of ECA;

Ten professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (vii) data entry for administrative applications;

Ten professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (viii) management and administrative support for office automation, including advising on and co-ordination of acquisition of office automation, preparing equipment specifications and requisitions, co-ordinating delivery, supervising installation and verifying invoices.

Sixteen professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (ix) secretariat support for meetings of the Technological Innovations Committee; and

Sixteen professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (x) management of the spare parts inventory for ECA microcomputers and related peripherals (notably, printers).

14. Additionally, $30,000 is being requested for operating expenses in data processing services.

15. All the resources for PADIS' operation of ECA's electronic support services will come from the regular programme budget.

Conclusion

16. It is hoped that PADIS will be more successful in 1992-1993 in securing regular budget resources than it was in 1990-1991. The small start, - one regular post - would be a symbolic landmark in integrating PADIS' activities in development information systems on behalf of member States into the United Nations regular budget.

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ADAPTATION OF PADIS TO CHANGING NEEDS

Introduction

1. Established in 1980, PADIS is now entering its second decade of operations. In terms of its cycles funded by the United Nations Development Programme, it is entering its fourth Phase. At this juncture it is important for PADIS, through the Regional Technical Committee, to re-examine its approaches to providing and promoting development information in the Africa region in terms of its users and their changing needs, in the context of the African economic situation as well as of changing information technology in Africa and the world.

2. In attempting this presentation, PADIS has utilized numerous sources. It has the advice rendered by past meetings of the Regional and Subregional Technical Committees for PADIS, results of several regional user needs' studies, self-evaluation by PADIS staff, reports of meetings of PADIS with the ECA Executive Secretary, and, most importantly, the report of the in-depth evaluation of PADIS (See ECA/PADIS/RTC/4 and ECA/PADIS/RTC/BD/1) which visited seven African countries over the course of two months in 1990 to re-examine PADIS' objectives and activities.

3. These sources concur with the overview that PADIS' mandate to develop a regional development information system and network remains valid and that PADIS has made noteworthy efforts to achieve its objectives. According to the 1990 in-depth evaluation mission:

> *The creation of a development information system and network for Africa, which PADIS is assigned to address, still remains an important and worthy objective meriting the support of the international donor community.*
>
> *The need for and usefulness of the activities under Project RAF/86/053, PADIS III, are recognized and expressed as such by the Member States.*
>
> *Starting from a meager basis, PADIS III has shown remarkable progress in all fields related to its immediate objectives (growth in number of national participating centres, increase in number of databanks, increase in contents of databanks, increased use of products and services, training, advisory services and servicing of meetings provided.)*

Following its consideration by the Regional Technical Committee, the revised version of this document will form the foundation for PADIS' project documents for the next five years.

4. Nonetheless, all the sources agree that periodic re-examination is an absolute necessity in view of changing needs and conditions. Through such re-examination, PADIS can attempt to improve its delivery of services to African member States. Following its consideration by the Regional Technical Committee, the revised version of this document will form the foundation for PADIS' project documents for the next five years.

Changing needs

5. In this paper PADIS will attempt a synthesis of the recommendations made by the various sources outlined above as to what directions it should take to adapt itself to various needs. These will be presented below, followed by PADIS suggestions for directions and activities to follow in its next phase to meet these needs.

Need for an integrated approach to development information. ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 658 (XIV) signaled the need for PADIS to enlarge its concentration

from *documentation and information* to *development information*. The evaluation mission in particular noted that decision makers and planners in African countries seemed heavily oriented toward numerical data, most of which are acquired at the national level. Information sought from external sources, they found, pertained mainly to macro-economic, sectoral and project related data at the sub-regional level and to data facilitating comparative inter-country analysis. An integrated approach means a redesign of the project to include the incorporation of statistical information, not only at PADIS itself, but in the information systems being developed by members of the PADIS network. It also necessitates a refocussing of PADIS activities to effectively develop and integrate statistical products which will meet the particular needs of socio-economic development planners in the continent. This will also mean a need for an increase in resources, and diversification of sources of funding to meet these increased requirements. The evaluation mission in particular found the PADIS project to be understaffed in relation to its mandate and objectives; this became particularly more acute with the broading of its mandate to development information.

To meet this need, PADIS proposes to intensify its efforts both to add numerical information to its information system as well as to integrate numerical with textual information. This will be done both at the level of the PADIS Central Co-ordinating Office and its data bases as well as in its advisory services and training for member States. To accomplish this, PADIS will update its statistical data base, through the development of user manuals and improveduser interfaces. It will acquire copies of external statistical data bases and develop user interfaces for those, too. It will attempt the use of hypermedia, i.e. the integration of text, graphics and numerical data in one information source. Efforts will be made not only to provide but also to interpret statistical data in its information services. PADIS will emphasize to its network the importance of adopting this integrated approach to development information.

Regarding the need for an increase in resources to accomplish this, ECA has agreed to organize a conference of donors on behalf of PADIS in the second half of 1991. This should help PADIS increase and diversify its sources of funding.

6. Some of the "changing" needs that had been identified by the earlier 1985 in-depth evaluation mission of PADIS have been found to be of continuing value, meriting further emphasis in Phase IV. These include the next three propositions.

a. Expansion of databanks and links to other databanks. Unquestionably, PADIS needs to continue to increase its access to available information to better meet the wide information needs of its users. This implies that co-ordination between PADIS and other networks and projects with an important information component in Africa should be stepped up. It also is inextricably linked with b. below.

PADIS will continue its efforts to develop its in-house data bases, with particular emphasis on its latest one, the data base of African data bases (PAD-DAB), which will particularly facilitate its links to other databases. Access to other data bases, whether on magnetic or optical media or on-line, will be strengthened, with attention to the acquisition of bibliographical, referral and numerical data bases. PADIS will utilize telecommunications to access external data bases and to link the data bases available through the PADIS network.

b. Increased focus on harmonization and standardization. In 1980, PADIS was on virgin terrain with regard to the development of computerized information systems in the Africa region. However, in the 90s, the situation is quite different, with the rapid expansion of the PADIS network and a proliferation of indigenous databases developing in the region. No single information system, PADIS included, can

hope to supply all the information needs of its users. As information sources increase geometrically, PADIS needs to be able to access as many of these sources as possible on behalf of its users. Additionally, network members must be able to freely and easily exchange information among each other and with other networks for the same purposes. Yet, the inter-relation with other networks must not significantly increase the workload of the institution, by requiring adoption of the methodologies of the other system/network. Thus, PADIS must give serious thought to the question of harmonizing the different standards for information processing as a major step to increasing input into the network at the national level as well as with institutional participating centres and with external networks. In this regard, there is a need to further develop and implement conversion programmes which can handle different data structures and reformat them into the PADIS structure. A strong promotion of this facility will contribute to an increased readiness to participate in the PADIS network.

PADIS will continue its work in this area, through the harmonization of standards and the development of conversion programmes to handle different data structures. This was the particular focus of the last meeting of the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information Systems in Africa. This approach will be extended to national participating centres as well, some of which already input to other systems. To further its work in this area, PADIS will co-operate with the United Nations Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of Information Systems, as well as the inter-organizational Informal Study Group on Information Harmonization.

c. Increased focus on national and institutional participating centres. It is clear that a centralized information system with highly limited resources can not meet the information needs of the region's thousands of users of development information. Thus, it is vital that national systems and specialized systems be in place that can be at hand to serve users. Thus, the concept and reality of PADIS' network need continued strengthening. Again, this is closely linked to the two preceding concepts.

In this regard, PADIS will step up its network activities: PADIS will develop an expanded network section in its presentations to donors, through which it will intensify its on-going advisory services to network members. It will also encourage UNDP to link its regional programme with country Intercountry Programming Funds (IPF's) so that national participating centres may access national-level UNDP funds to improve their capabilities and make themselves self-sustaining. The important goal is to bring the national and institutional participating centres to self-reliance.

7. Several of the changing needs to which PADIS needs to adapt relate to changes in information technology. These include:

a. Making access to available information more timely. This was particularly evident from the user studies, which by definition dealt with both actual and potential users of PADIS. They found that one of the most important aspects in the utilization of information as a commodity was its timeliness. When users need information, they need it rapidly. Enormous databases are of no use to users unless that can rapidly

access the information contained therein. A response to an information request received three months after the request originated is often of little or no value.

The use of telecommunications will become an integral part of the PADIS project. Telecommunications will be used both for data base access and for documents delivery. Other means as well will be investigated to improve documents delivery, such as the mastering of full-text data bases on CD-ROM and optical erasable disks. Additionally, to provide more timely information, PADIS will concentrate on giving planners information they need on the special topics of interest of the day, such as structural adjustment, debt, inflation, energy crisis, and global recession. PADIS will also developed annually-updated country profiles, providing a wide variety of basic data in hypermedia format.

b. Staying abreast of developments in information technology. Technological development, being as fast as it has been, necessarily incurs a rethinking of strategies both during and between project phases. In order to maintain contact with the world of information systems and networks, PADIS must maintain its know-how regarding recent technological developments in the field of transfer, storage and repackaging of information.

PADIS will test new information technologies to determine their applicability to the African situation. It will also test new software to make recommendations to its network for its adaptation. It will develop relations with regional and international organizations specialized in all aspects of information science.

c. At the same time, however, PADIS must be aware of and able to adapt to different levels of technological development of its participating centres, as the level of development and sophistication of the centres differs widely. A plan must be developed for the participation of centres in the system and network, regardless of level of technological development. This is closely related to the need to conduct training against the realities of African economic conditions.

PADIS is aware of the wide variety of technological levels with its network. Some centres are fully computerized and regularly access external data bases on-line; others have not yet acquired their first micro-computers. Plans will be developed to facilitate the participation of network members, regardless of technological level. At the same time, PADIS will encourage the network to use all possible means to access resources to promote their technological advancement. In addition, in the realization of the scarcity of convertible currency in many parts of the region, PADIS will produce information in cost efficient formats (e.g. microforms, CD-ROM), that will increase the quantity of information available with minimal foreign currency expenditure.

8. Other aspects of the adaptation deal directly with users and their needs.

a. Promotion of improved levels of information use as a continuing objective. This involved the need to identify and adapt products and services to meet varying user needs as well as to mount promotional campaigns to publicize these products and services. Although during the current phase much effort has been put into making PADIS and PADIS activities, services and products more widely known in the region, name recognition and acquaintance with PADIS and its activities, products

and services still leaves much to be desired. The use of national UNDP offices can be an important element in a promotion strategy.

Adaptation to these needs involves both marketing and product/service development. As the evaluation mission noted, the current phase put great efforts into increasing awareness of PADIS and its activities. However, this was just a beginning. These efforts need to be intensified during the next cycle. Beginning with the network members and proceeding to general users, PADIS can mount an active campaign to educate users on what PADIS can provide. More pamphlets, brochures and graphic diskettes will be produced. In the area of product development, PADIS will try to promote improved levels of information use by providing products in forms that will be readily utilized, e.g. full text documents, repackaging of information into reports, country profiles. It will also develop information products on the social, economic and political problems that impact African development.

b. The need to stay in contact with users and their needs. This must be built-in to the project, as an on-going activity. Although some actions have been undertaken to gain more insight into the composition of existing and potential user groups and their respective needs, more needs to be done in this field.

For the first time during this cycle, PADIS undertook several user needs' studies, the results of which have been presented to this Committee. PADIS sees the value of making these studies an on-going part of its programme. In addition to studies, other techniques, such as marketing focus groups, will be utilized to provide regular evaluation of our products and services and to stay in touch with the changing requirements of users. Telecommunications can also be used for this purpose: through an electronic bulletin board, users can exchange comments and criticisms that will foster this on-going evaluation and adaptation. Meetings, too, which bring together users are an important aspect of this process. Thus, the Regional Technical Committee, the Information Science Committee of the Joint Conference of African Statisticians, Planners and Demographers and the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information Systems in Africa must continue to be serviced.

9. Suggestions have been made for the improvement of PADIS' training methods and approaches.

a. Adaptation of training to all categories of beneficiaries. Training must be directed not only at operators of databases (i.e. PADIS network of national, subregional and participating centres), but it must reach end users as well, especially to educate high level users on PADIS' products and services. At the same time, this can sensitize these users to the importance of national information policies. There is no question that the adoption of information policies needs to be encouraged in all posible fora because information and information policy have, if any at all, a relatively low priority in the national policies and the formulation thereof in member states.

PADIS will develop a diversified training programme that includes different levels of training (beginning, intermediate, advanced and training for trainers) in software use and data base design for data base operators; it will also organize

joint training for its intermediaries (network members) and end users. Training will be aimed at policy makers as well. To do this, training modules will be produced, utilizing a multi-media approach. Training materials will be tested and refined. In order to provide a greater variety of specialized training, PADIS will co-operate with regional information science training institutions both to ensure their incorporation of PADIS methodologies in their regular curriculum as well as to collaborate in the offering of specialized courses requested by member States. In the present cycle this was begun with a number of national and regional institutions: it will be intensified in the next cycle.

b. More training in aspects of computer use. Not only was there a need for more courses on computer basics, in conjunction with training in PADIS methodologies, but the need has also been identified for high-level, long-term training programmes in information processing.

Training in computer basics (MS-DOS operating systems, word processing) will be delivered, along with courses in PADIS methodologies for network members. For higher level, long-term training in information processing, PADIS feels that this may be beyond its means and resources. It will, however, work with regional training institutions to develop and deliver such courses; PADIS will then publicize these courses to its participating centres.

c. Derive longer-term impact from training. This can be done through improved design of and use of training materials in training programmes as well as concentrating on training the trainers programmes.

This will be done through a several-pronged approach. The effort to have information science training institutions in the region incorporate PADIS methodologies will continue. By the provision of better documented training, the effects of the training can be felt over a longer period. Training-the-trainers seminars, will also result in greater impact.

10. Increased efforts at income-generation. The ECA Executive Secretary as well as UNDP have emphasized this. This must be combined with finding ways that PADIS can access the income it may generate.

PADIS studies have shown that its users feel that information is an economic commodity; countries should pay for and value this commodity. In this area, possibilities include "selling" training, advisory services and products to institutions that are able to pay for them. PADIS organs, such as the Newsletter, can contain advertisements for such products. However, the difficulty to date has been that when PADIS generates funds, it has not able to access them. Ways must be found to do this; otherwise there is little incentive for such activity.

11. Some of the requirements for PADIS' adaptation come from outside PADIS and are directed at member States. PADIS needs the full involvement of member States if its objectives are to be realized.

Increased commitment from member States. This relates to the need for adoption of information policy as well as co-ordination of information activities at the national level. There is no question that the adoption of information policies needs to be encouraged in all posible fora because information and information policy have, if any at all, a relatively low priority in the national policies and the formulation thereof in member states. This also pertains to the political will of member States to support the subregional centres. Additionally, member States should honour the obligations they

choose to engage in and strive more vigorously for the implementation of the resolutions passed on their behalf. African Members States must demonstrate their positive commitment to the implementation of both national and subregional participating centres in more concrete terms than the passing of resolutions. Commitments must be made which must be binding on all members. Otherwise, there is no way in which a viable network of development information systems for Africa's survival can materialize.

Conclusion

12. The major points of emphasis in the next cycle will be on networking, both in the substantive as well as the technological sense, and in the diversification of information products. Present areas of activity will be continued, with particular attention to improvement of the marketing of PADIS and of its training programme.

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CONSEIL ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL

Commission économique pour l'Afrique

Cinquième réunion du
Comité technique régional
du PADIS

Addis Abeba, Ethiopie
24-25 avril 1991

Rapport

I. ORGANISATION ET PARTICIPATION

1. La cinquième réunion du Comité technique régional du Système panafricain d'information pour le développement (PADIS) s'est tenue au siège de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA) à Addis- Abeba les 24 et 25 avril 1991. La réunion a été ouverte par le Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA, M. Adebayo Adedeji.

2. Ont participé à la réunion les représentants des membres du Comité ci-après: Algérie, Ethiopie, Niger, Organisation de l'unité africaine (OUA), Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO) et Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD).

II. CEREMONIE D'OUVERTURE

Ouverture de la réunion (point 1 de l'ordre du jour)

3. Dans son discours d'ouverture, le Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA, président ès qualités du Comité, a indiqué qu'à l'heure où le PADIS entamait sa deuxième décennie, il convenait de faire le bilan de ses réalisations et d'examiner les perspectives d'avenir. Des progrès avaient été accomplis dans la mise en place de son réseau et dans l'utilisation de techniques informatiques de pointe. Dans sa récente mission d'évaluation, le PNUD avait conclu que les objectifs du PADIS méritaient d'être appuyés. Le rôle du Comité était de réexaminer les approches du PADIS pour ce qui est de fournir et de promouvoir l'information pour le développement en Afrique, étant donné les besoins en constante évolution des utilisateurs ainsi que dans le contexte de la situation économique de l'Afrique et des progrès des techniques informatiques au sein et à l'extérieur du continent.

4. Dans sa déclaration d'ouverture, le représentant de l'Unesco a passé en revue les dix ans de collaboration entre son organisation et le PADIS. Il a indiqué que le programme Priorité Afrique de l'Unesco (1990-1995) et son troisième plan à moyen terme axé sur la communication offraient de nombreuses possibilités de coopération avec le PADIS. A cet égard, il a instamment demandé que soit convoquée dans les meilleurs délais une réunion entre le Programme général d'information (PGI) de l'Unesco et le PADIS, à laquelle participerait également l'OUA en raison de son rôle dans le projet RASCOM. Il a également souligné l'importance des utilisateurs dans les activités relatives à l'information.

5. Le représentant du PNUD a mis l'accent sur l'engagement de son organisation à soutenir le PADIS, comme en témoignaient les projets d'appui en faveur aussi bien de l'Afrique du Nord que de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Il a estimé que le PADIS, en plus des autres projets d'information et de communication que le PNUD finançait à travers la CEA et l'OUA, pourrait aider à combler le retard technologique de l'Afrique. Les moyens devraient être trouvés pour permettre à tous les pays africains qui souhaitaient en bénéficier, de prendre part aux activités du PADIS.

Adoption de l'ordre du jour (point 2 de l'ordre du jour)

6. Le Comité a adopté le projet d'ordre du jour proposé dans le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/1:

1. Ouverture de la réunion
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

3. Questions découlant des réunions de la CEA

4. Activités du PADIS depuis la quatrième réunion du Comité technique régional

5. Rapport de la mission d'évaluation du PNUD

6. Situation financière du PADIS

7. Budget-programme du PADIS pour 1992-1993

8. Adaptation du PADIS aux besoins changeants

9. Questions diverses

10. Adoption du rapport

11. Clôture de la réunion

III. DEBAT GENERAL

Questions découlant des réunions de la CEA (point 3 de l'ordre du jour)

7. Un fonctionnaire du secrétariat a présenté le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/2, qui passe en revue les décisions prises par la Conférence commune des planificateurs, statisticiens et démographies africains à sa sixième session, la Conférence des Ministres responsables de la planification économique et du développement à sa seizième réunion et le Comité permanent sur l'harmonisation et la normalisation des systèmes de documentation et d'information des institutions régionales et sous-régionales africaines à sa troisième réunion. S'y ajoutaient les rapports des réunions récentes des Comités techniques sous-régionaux du PADIS pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et pour la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Est et de l'Afrique australe, au cours desquelles il a été recommandé aux Etats membres d'appuyer les centres sous-régionaux du PADIS.

Les activités du PADIS depuis la tenue de la quatrième réunion du Comité technique régional (point 4 de l'ordre du jour)

8. Au titre de ce point, un fonctionnaire du secrétariat a présenté le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/3, qui est un compte rendu des activités entreprises par le PADIS depuis la dernière réunion du Comité, dans les domaines suivants : formation, services consultatifs et autres formes de coopération technique en faveur des Etats membres, mise en place de bases de données, constitution de réseaux, services des utilisateurs, service technique de réunions d'organes délibérants y compris de groupes d'experts, réalisation d'études et publications. Il a en particulier cité l'étude conjointe PADIS/UNESCO sur l'utilisation de l'information pour le développement dans les pays francophones de la région. Le Comité a exprimé sa satisfaction devant les progrès accomplis par le PADIS au cours des deux dernières années.

Rapport de la mission d'évaluation du PNUD (point 5 de l'ordre du jour)

9. Un fonctionnaire du secrétariat a présenté le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/4, qui constitue un résumé du rapport de la mission d'évaluation du PNUD et de ses recomman-

dations. (Les rapports de la mission d'évaluation et de l'examen tripartite qui a suivi ont fait l'objet des documents de travail ECA/PADIS/RTC/BD/1 et ECA/PADIS/RTC/BD/2). Au cours du débat qui a suivi, le représentant du PNUD a déclaré que son organisation était disposée à poursuivre son assistance au PADIS dans le cadre de son cinquième cycle de programmation (1992-1997). A cet égard, il a souligné que le PADIS devrait renforcer ses relations avec ses centres nationaux participants dans le contexte de son réseau, ce qui pourrait contribuer à la mise en place d'une communauté économique africaine, avec la participation des organisations intergouvernementales. Dans le cadre du cinquième cycle de programmation, il a instamment demandé au PADIS de mettre l'accent sur les utilisateurs et de coordonner ses activités avec d'autres organismes s'occupant d'information pour le développement, tant au sein de la région qu'à travers le système des Nations Unies.

10. Le président a souligné l'importance que le projet du PADIS revêtait pour la CEA, et ce, depuis sa mise en route. Afin d'accroître la viabilité de ce projet, il a souligné la nécessité de mettre en place des structures durables dans les 34 Etats membres qui avaient des centres nationaux participants et d'étendre ses structures aux Etats africains ne faisant pas encore partie du réseau. Il a estimé que les structures nationales devaient être renforcées par des centres sous-régionaux. Bien que les Etats membres se soient montrés lents à appuyer les centres sous- régionaux, il a déclaré qu'il était important d'encourager leurs récentes initiatives dans ce domaine.

11. A la suite de la mission d'évaluation, on avait défini les domaines de développement possibles du PADIS dans le cadre du cinquième cycle. Certains membres ont souligné la difficulté d'établir des liens entre les ressources régionales et les ressources nationales; d'autres ont estimé qu'on pourrait informer les Etats membres de la possibilité d'utiliser les CIP nationaux pour financer des activités régionales telles que le PADIS. Il a été proposé que le Comité soit convoqué en réunion extraordinaire au cours du quatrième trimestre de 1991 dans le but de mettre définitivement au point le descriptif du projet du PADIS, qui détaillerait notamment le rôle d'organisme directeur du PADIS dans la promotion de l'information pour le développement et renforcerait la coopération interinstitutions, en vue de sa présentation au PNUD.

Situation financière du PADIS (point 6 de l'ordre du jour)

12. Un fonctionnaire du secrétariat a présenté le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/5 portant sur la situation du PADIS, notamment l'absence de fonds pour financer les dépenses de personnel et les activités pour le second semestre de 1991. Grâce à un rééchelonnement des économies et au renvoi à une date ultérieure du recrutement du Conseiller technique principal au titre du projet RAF/86/053, le déficit pour 1991 a été ramené de 650 000 à 250 000 dollars. Des solutions de rechange ont été examinées à cet égard. C'est ainsi que le représentant du PNUD a annoncé que le Bureau régional du PNUD pour l'Afrique couvrirait ce déficit dans le contexte d'une révision de projet conforme aux recommandations de la mission d'évaluation, ce qui permettrait au projet de continuer.

13. Le représentant du PNUD a exhorté le PADIS à développer ses activités rémunératrices. Le président a lui aussi souligné la nécessité pour le PADIS de devenir autonome et a proposé qu'un document soit établi, en consultation avec d'autres organisations ayant une expérience dans ce domaine, pour la prochaine réunion du Comité. Certains participants ont estimé que cela pourrait décourager la participation nationale et que des réglementations financières entravaient les activités du PADIS dans ce domaine, mais le consensus qui s'est dégagé est que de tels obstacles pourraient être surmontés et que cette stratégie devrait être explorée.

Programme de travail du PADIS pour la période 1992-1993 (point 7 de l'ordre du jour)

14. Un fonctionnaire du secrétariat a présenté le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/6 portant sur les propositions du PADIS pour les activités ordinaires de la prochaine période biennale, pour lesquelles une assistance était requise au titre du budget ordinaire. Il a indiqué que la CEA n'avait pas été en mesure d'inclure cette requête dans le budget-programme pour 1992-1993 qu'elle a soumis au Siège. Le président a déploré cet oubli et assuré le Comité que tout serait mis en oeuvre pour réparer cette omission étant donné que le budget-programme n'avait pas encore été définitivement arrêté et approuvé.

Adaptation du PADIS à des besoins changeants (point 8 de l'ordre du jour)

15. Le PADIS a défini la façon dont il va exécuter ses activités pour 1992-1997 dans le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/7. L'accent est mis sur la nécessité d'une conception intégrée de l'information pour le développement, l'expansion de ses bases de données actuelles et le renforcement des liens avec les autres banques de données, la priorité accrue donnée aux centres participants nationaux et institutionnels, l'harmonisation et la normalisation, un accès plus rapide à l'information, l'utilisation des techniques informatiques de pointe tout en s'adaptant à différents niveaux technologiques et aux réalités économiques africaines, la promotion de l'utilisation améliorée de l'information, l'amélioration des communications avec les utilisateurs, la priorité continue à la formation et des efforts accrus en vue de la production de recettes. La constitution de réseaux et la diversification des produits de l'information continueront d'être privilégiées, tandis que l'amélioration des activités du PADIS dans les domaines de la commercialisation de l'information et de la formation recevrait toute l'attention voulue. Pour leur part, les Etats membres devraient faire preuve d'un attachement accru au projet et à ses objectifs.

16. Les participants ont estimé que la programmation du PADIS pour la période 1992-1997 devrait s'inscrire dans le cadre de l'intégration économique africaine et d'une communauté économique africaine. Elle devrait également traduire le rôle du PADIS dans la coordination des activités sectorielles relatives à l'information pour le développement ainsi que dans l'harmonisation des activités aux niveaux national, sous-régional et régional. Le document a été adopté comme référence pour l'orientation du PADIS au cours des cinq années à venir.

Questions diverses (point 9 de l'ordre du jour)

17. Aucune question n'a été soulevée au titre de ce point.

Adoption du rapport (point 10 de l'ordre du jour)

18. Le Comité a adopté son rapport après amendement. Il a également adopté la résolution ci-après qui sera soumise, à travers le Comité technique préparatoire plénier, à la Conférence des ministres de la CEA à sa vingt-septième réunion.

IV. CLOTURE

Clôture de la réunion (point 11 de l'ordre du jour)

19. Dans son discours de clôture, le Président a déclaré que le PADIS devait être à la hauteur des espoirs fondés en lui par les Etats membres et les organisations intergouver-

nementales sous-régionales et régionales africaines . Il a insisté sur la nécessité pour le PADIS de faire des efforts dans les domaines du développement des réseaux, de l'information pour les groupements et entités économiques africains, de la coordination sectorielle et des études des utilisateurs. Il a particulièrement remercié le PNUD, l'Unesco et l'OAU pour l'appui apporté au PADIS.

V. RESOLUTION

Mise en oeuvre d'une conception intégrée de l'information pour le développement

La Conférence des ministres,

Rappelant sa résolution 498(XIX) du 26 mai 1984 sur le Système panafricain d'information pour le développement (PADIS),

Rappelant également sa résolution 600(XXII) du 24 avril 1987 sur la mise en place de systèmes d'information en Afrique,

Rappelant en outre sa résolution 658(XXIV) du 7 avril 1989 sur le renforcement des systèmes d'information en Afrique,

Ayant à l'esprit sa résolution 679(XXV) du 23 mai 1990 sur l'amélioration de la circulation de l'information en Afrique,

Constatant avec satisfaction la décision du PADIS de mettre en oeuvre, pendant la période 1992 - 1997, une conception intégrée de l'information pour le développement, telle que définie dans le document ECA/PADIS/RTC/7 intitulé "Action du PADIS en fonction des besoins nouveaux",

Notant avec satisfaction les efforts que le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement et la Commission économique pour l'Afrique ont déployés pour obtenir les fonds nécessaires au PADIS pour l'année 1991,

Prenant acte avec satisfaction du rapport sur l'évaluation approfondie du PADIS par le PNUD (1990),

Notant en outre avec satisfaction que le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement a exprimé sa volonté de continuer à financer le PADIS tout au long de son cinquième cycle de programmation (1992-1997),

Sachant gré à la Commission des efforts qu'elle a entrepris pour renforcer le PADIS,

Reconnaissant la nécessité d'une collaboration étroite entre la Commission, l'Organisation de l'unité africaine et l'Unesco dans l'élaboration de programmes relatifs aux communications,

1. Demande que dans l'orientation future du PADIS, soit prévu un rôle d'organisme directeur régional en matière de coordination de l'information pour le développement, de renforcement des lieux nationaux, sous-régionaux et régionaux dans le domaine de l'information, de promotion de la mise en place de réseaux informatiques et de facilitation des échanges de l'information pour le développement, dans le contexte de l'intégration économique du continent et d'une Communauté économique africaine;

2. Prie instamment les Etats membres et les bailleurs de fonds internationaux de renforcer leur appui en faveur du PADIS, en particulier de ses centres sous-régionaux;

3. Demande au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement de faire bénéficier le PADIS d'un financement régional dans le cadre de son cinquième cycle de programmation;

4. Engage vivement les Etats membres à envisager d'inclure les besoins en matière d'information pour le développement dans leur Chiffre indicatif de planification (CIP);

5. Prie le Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission de redoubler d'efforts pour financer les postes essentiels du PADIS à partir du budget ordinaire;

6. Demande que soit rapidement convoquée une réunion entre le PADIS et l'Unesco, dans le cadre de la Réunion mixte de concertation et avec le participation de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine, pour développer la collaboration dans le domaine des communications.

Annexe I

Liste des participants

MEMBRES

M. Abdaoui Abdelhamid
Premier Secrétaire
Ambassade d'Algérie
B.P. 5740
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

M. Afework Temtime
Expert en matière des sciences d'information
National Science and Technological Information and Documentation Centre
B.P. 2490
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

M. Atef Wahba Ghabrial
Chef, Sciences & Technologie
Organisation pour l'unité africain
B.P. 60236
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

M. Awad Idris
Représentative de l'UNESCO à l'Ethiopie et
Bureau de liaison avec la CEA et OUA
B.P. 1177
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

M. Ousmane Silla
M. Carlos Navarro
Bureau régional de liaison
PNUD
B.P. 5580
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

Mme. Mariama Mahamidou, Conseiller
Ambassade du Niger
B.P. 5791
Addis-Abeba
Ethiopie

Annexe I (suite)

SECRETARIAT

Prof. Adebayo Adedeji
Sous-Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies et
Secrétaire Exécutif de la CEA

Mme. Nancy J. Hafkin
Fonctionnaire chargé de PADIS

M. Makane Faye
Fonctionnaire pour le développement des programmes d'information, PADIS

M. Herbert Girkes
Chef de la séction de la documentation informatisée, PADIS

M. Francis Inganji
Coordinateur de la formation, PADIS

M. Lishan Adam
Fonctionnaire de projet, PADIS

Mme. Noelie Akande, PADIS
Mme. Bethlehem Teshager, PADIS
Mme. Meaza-Ghenet Solomon, PADIS
M. Frew Dubale, PADIS
M. Tefera Woldeyes, PADIS
Mme. Mulumebet Arega, PADIS

Mme. M.R. Schmelzer
Fonctionnaire de gestion de programme, PPCO/CEA

M. Saymah Tuan
Fonctionnaire de gestion de programme, TACOO/CEA

Mme. Petrina Amonoo
Co-ordinatrice, POPIN-Afrique